CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Burma

DATE DISTR.

31 August 1951

SUBJECT

Possible Merging of Karen National Defense Organization Efforts with the Burma Communist Party NO. OF PAGES

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SUPPLEMENT TO 25X1A REPORT NO.

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INFO.

- Karen insurgent elements in the Papun area of East Central Burma and in 1. the Delta area have linked up with Burma Communist Party (BCP) units in an effort to strengthen their military position. 1 It is possible that the Karen National Defense Organization (KNDO) will cast their lot with the BCP in an effort to seize or control North Burma. 2
- Hunter THAM WE, a KNDO leader in the Toungoo area, has sent delegates to Pangoon in an effort to contact any source friendly to the Karens and ask for assistance if a merger with the BCP is to be avoided.

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Comment. Recent reports have indicated that the Karens are known to be cooperating with the BCP in some areas of Burma. See 25X1A

Comment. It is erroneous to assume that KNDO cooperation with the BCP indicates that the KNDO is itself a Communist-motivated insurrectionary group. A concerted effort by the BCP to woo the KWDO's into their camp has not resulted in wholesale political conversions but has led to growing cooperation for reasons, largely, of military expediency.

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